

Distribution of the Coscoroba

by DEAN AMADON

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C. J. O. Harrison (1962, *Bull. British Orn. Club*, 82: 90) in miscellaneous notes on waterfowl lists egg clutches of the Coscoroba Swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) from Buenos Aires province, Argentina and from Rio Grande do Sul province, Brazil. Both of these areas are north of the breeding range as given in Delacour's recent *Waterfowl of the World* and Harrison suggests that the breeding range of the species may have shrunk because of the spread of civilization. However, many of the vast marshes of Buenos Aires province remain undrained and I myself saw breeding Coscorobas there in 1959. More recently Steinbacher (1962, *Abh. Senckenbergischen Natur. Gesell.*, no. 502) has published a nesting record from Paraguay. The late E. Kaempfer collected specimens in Rio Grande do Sul in the 1920's. *Coscoroba* thus probably occurs throughout its former range. I have commented on this species at greater length in a manuscript sent for publication in *Novedades Colombianas*.

Eggshell pigmentation in the Jacobin Cuckoo, *Clamator jacobinus* (Bodd.)

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Friedmann (1948), when discussing the Jacobin Cuckoo, *Clamator jacobinus*, states that the eggs laid by this species in Asia and Ethiopia are bluish-green (although, from eggs of the species in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) it would seem more accurate to describe them as 'light blue, occasionally greenish'). Those of the South African birds are stated to be always white. He was puzzled by, but accepted, the record of a white oviduct egg from a female shot in Kenya, but doubted the record of a similar oviduct egg taken by Paludan near Timbuktu, in French Equatorial Africa. Paludan recorded that the egg was not quite ready to be laid, and Friedmann suggests that it may have been just about to receive its pigment when the bird was shot.

This would infer that the blue pigment was a superficial one, applied to the surface of a white shell. It has been found, however, that where blue coloration occurs in eggshells it is usually present throughout the whole thickness of the shell and constitutes an alternative to the white colour. (Harrison, in press). To verify whether this is true of the eggs of *C. jacobinus*, small fragments of four eggs of this species were examined under the microscope. Three of these had been taken in Uganda and one in Kenya, and all four were blue. When these shells were examined it was found that the blue colour was present throughout the thickness of the shell in the typical manner. From this we must conclude that if the eggs were removed from the oviduct at any stage in shell formation they would appear blue, if that was to be a part of the final pigmentation.

The only other possibility here is that an egg might be white in the oviduct and become blue when laid. Mrs. B. P. Hall informs me that the eggs of the Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*, when freshly removed from the oviducts of dead birds, appear blue, showing that this would occur as a